

PSYCHIATRIC INTERVIEW SERIES
Patient No. 18. Evaluation for diagnosis

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Produced for the Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine,
by the Motion Picture Division, Theatre Arts Department,
University of California, Los Angeles, 1961

Interviewer: How do you feel?

Patient No. 18: Well.

I: How long have you been here?

P: Three months. May 17th.

I: And what brought you here?

P: That's difficult to answer.

I: Could you give me some idea?

P: Off hand, I can't.

I: Whose idea was that you come here?

P: My psychiatrist.

I: And what happened that ended up with you being here in the hospital?

P: The psychiatrist decided that this was the situation for me.

I: Did he tell you why?

P: No, the psychiatrist did not.

I: Has anybody told you why?

P: ... No.

I: Have you any idea why?

P: Yes.

I: And what is that?

P: I am not completely like other people

I: What do you mean by that?

P: People dislike me because I am not completely like them.

I: And in what way are you different?

P: ... I am trying to do with my life something which few people try to do and ... this influences my thinking, and consequently my actions.

I: What is it that you are trying to do with your life?

P: ... Play the piano for people.

I: I am not clear ... how is it that playing the piano for people has eventually resulted in your being here in the hospital?

P: ... I sit differently when I play the piano. And when I am away from the piano I occasionally look differently from other people, and this has caused dislike from people.

I: They dislike you because you sit differently at the piano?

P: ... Yes

I: In what way do you sit at the piano that people would dislike you?

P: ... I cannot describe an illustration of how I sit.

I: And I can't imagine it, that it would make people angry at you, or at least dislike you. How do you know they dislike you?

P: ... My father does and doctors do because of the way I appear in relationship to the way I sit at the piano, and occasionally stand when I am away from the piano because of the way I sit at the piano.

I: How do you stand when you're away from the piano that they dislike you?

P: I can't describe an illustration.

I: Does it feel to you any different from how other people stand?

P: ... Yes it feels different.

I: In what way?

P: It... this is becoming too involved to describe.

I: Would I be right in assuming that you don't feel like you belong in the hospital, but that other people did feel that?

P: As soon as I express the belief that I do not belong in this hospital, which is a mental hospital, then... those who dislike me want to find a worse place for me.

I: I'm not sure I understand. Could you make that clear for me?

P: ... No

I: Is this a way of...

P: ... A hosp... —Yes, I can. As soon as I express the belief that I do not belong in this mental hospital, then those who dislike me want to find a hospital where the living conditions are not as good as this.

I: But why are you in the hospital in the first place? I'm not clear.

P: ... Because I am working to do something in my life which most people do not do. This influences my thinking. And occasionally my actions, and... a psychiatrist has noticed this and dislikes...

I: What does he noticed?

P: ... The actions, and the thinking, and has decided that I should be here to change them.

I: What actions?

P: How I talk. And how I look right at this moment.

I: And how would you describe the way you're talking and looking right at this moment?

P: As other people talk, and that this moment however, I've been told that it is not the way other people talk and look.

I: Have you any idea in what way it's not like others?

P: No, because I believe it is as other people talk.

I: So then form your point of view, not from other people's point of view, from your point of view, you look, you talk, you think, you behave... as other people do. You are very interested in learning to play the piano. You sit at the piano a little different from the way someone else might and you stand somewhat differently.

P: ... Occasionally, I stand differently.

I: Now that in itself, doesn't seem on the surface to be sufficient reason for being in a hospital; so what other reasons have been given to you, or what other reasons do you understand are the causes of your being here?

P: I am supposed to not be mentally well.

I: And what's supposed to be wrong with you?

P: No doctor has told me.

I: That's hard to believe.

P: I tell the truth.

I: What are your plans? If things should go well, and you were to leave the hospital, then what?

P: I need financial help from my father to prepare me for obtaining a job as a piano instructor at a university where I would be able to teach people how to play the piano and also play the piano for people.

I: Have you had the training yet to permit you to be an instructor?

P: No, I have not.

I: Have you tried?

P: I don't understand what you mean by the...

I: Have you tried to get the instructions?

P: ... Yes I have tried.

I: And what's happened?

P: I have not had the correct environment for the instruction, nor the correct financial help for the instruction, nor the correct instruction.

I: Have you been accepted for such instruction?

P: By some teachers, yes.

I: And... by others no?

P: Yes, again, it has been about half and half.

I: Have you started any such instruction with those who did approve of it?

P: Yes.

I: And how has it gone?

P: With some it has gone well. With some it has not gone well.

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This audio-script has been edited on the occasion of the exhibition:
MASSIMO VASCHETTO
And for a very short period of time I was left, like an idiot, without any pain at all.
01.12.2019 - 15.02.2020
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